



Penn Medicine

Lancaster General Health

Transport of Specimens

Packaging:

Tubes, specimen collection kits, and specimen jars are transported in a sealed, plastic, biohazard labeled bag with the patient requisition. Each tube must be properly labeled with a minimum of 2 patient identifiers or the specimen will be rejected and not processed.

Temperature:

Specimens are transported according to the temperature requirements dictated by the test requested.

- 1) **Room Temperature:** Couriers pick up room temperature specimens during office hours. These specimens should not be placed in the locked box outside the office. During transport, our couriers carry insulated containers that maintain room temperature throughout the route until the specimens are received in the Laboratory.
- 2) **Refrigerated:** Couriers will pick up refrigerated specimens which have been refrigerated in the client's refrigerator (2-8°C) during office hours or specimens which have been placed in the locked insulated box, with ice packs, after office hours. Each vehicle is equipped with the appropriate insulated container to maintain the correct temperature 2-8°C until the specimens are received in the Laboratory.

**NOTE: On the rare occasions when the locked box is utilized,
if possible, tubes should be placed in an upright position
in the transport bag, near but not in direct contact with the ice packs.**

- 3) **Frozen:** Couriers will pick up frozen specimens which have been stored in a functional, temperature regulated, and non-self-defrosting freezers. The couriers utilize dry ice (frozen at -70°C) in coolers, with additional ice packs. This process will keep specimens frozen for a minimum of 6 hours.